

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 19504 022036Z

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ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02 AF-08 ARA-10

EA-09 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 IO-13 /097 W

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R 022018Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8390

UNCLAS LONDON 19504

PASS USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, IWC

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL: FOOD AID

1. FOOD AID COMMITTEE SESSION NOVEMBER 29 WAS HIGH-LIGHTED BY REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT ACTION ON EXTENSION COMMITMENTS AND SHIPMENTS OF FOOD AID, AND DISCUSSION OF FUTURE ACTION RE FOOD AID CONVENTION.

2. MEMBERSHIP. ARGENTINA ANNOUNCED RATIFICATION OF 1975 AND 1976 PROTOCOLS AND SAID DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED OR WAS IN PROCESS. JAPAN AND FINLAND ANNOUNCED RATIFICATION OF 1976 PROTOCOLS (FOOD AID AND WHEAT TRADE CONVENTIONS) AND SAID THEY WOULD DEPOSIT INSTRUMENTS IN DECEMBER. US WELCOMED THESE ACTIONS, INFORMED GROUP OF SENATE APPROVAL FOR RATIFICATION, AND COMMENTED THAT DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. RECALLING CONDITION THAT DEPOSIT WOULD DEPEND ON OTHER MAJOR DONORS JOINING FOOD AID CONVENTION, US DELEGATE NOTED THAT SOME MEMBERS HAD NOT YET FORMALLY JOINED EITHER 1975 OR 1976 PROTOCOLS. EC RESPONDED THAT PROVISIONAL APPLICATION AND FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE EVIDENCE OF INTENTION TO RATIFY EVENTUALLY, THOUGH EC REP COULD NOT SAY WHEN THIS

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PAGE 02 LONDON 19504 022036Z

WOULD HAPPEN AND REQUESTED FURTHER EXTENSION OF TIME.

3. COMMITTEE AGREED TO FOLLOWING EXTENSIONS OF TIME
TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENTS:

ARGENTINA - TO JANUARY 31, 1977

US AND EC (INCLUDING MEMBER STATES THAT HAVE NOT
YET ACCEPTED) - TO JUNE 30, 1977.

4. FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS. DISCUSSION OF OUT-
STANDING OBLIGATIONS OF EC AND ARGENTINA UNDER 1967
CONVENTION AND LACK OF SATISFACTORY EXPLANATIONS
PROMPTED COMMENT FROM CHAIRMAN (DUTCH) THAT RECURRING
REPORT OF THESE SAME ARREARAGES WAS BECOMING A COMEDY
AND HE URGED ELIMINATION OF THESE OUTSTANDING OBLIGA-
TIONS. ON OBLIGATIONS UNDER 1971 CONVENTION, ARGENTINA
ANNOUNCED PROGRAM OF SHIPMENTS, JAPAN SAID \$6 MILLION
COMMITTED TO BANGLADESH WOULD SHIP BY FEBRUARY,
SWITZERLAND SAID COMMITMENTS TO WFP SHOULD SHIP BY
MARCH, SWEDEN ADVISED ON PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM, EC HAD
NO INFORMATION, AND US REVIEWED TITLES I AND II GRAIN
SHIPMENTS.

5. FUTURE ACTION. DISCUSSION OF SECRETARIAT'S PRO-
POSAL THAT PREPARATORY GROUP TAKE UP FOOD AID IN ITS
FUTURE WORK ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH US AND AUSTRALIA
SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL AND EC, JAPAN, AND
ARGENTINA OPPOSED. CANADA REMAINED SILENT AND LATER
INFORMED US THAT, WHILE OTTAWA FAVORED CONTINUATION OF
FOOD AID CONVENTION, THEY WERE UNCERTAIN OF USEFULNESS
OF DISCUSSION BEFORE CONCLUSION OF TALKS ON TRADE AS-
PECTS. FURTHER CONSIDERATION WAS PUT OFF TO NEXT
MEETING OF COMMITTEE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, AGREEMENTS, TREATY RATIFICATION, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON19504
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-0916
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761279/aaaacqnh.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL: FOOD AID
TAGS: EAGR, EAID, IWC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006